TL 5189

Hankins, Dennis B

From: MURRAY, JEFF [jeflisb@usia.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 1999 2:13 PM
To: analisb@usia.gov; petlisb@usia.gov; hankinsdb@state.gov; stephensdk@state.gov
Subject: House Resolution 292 on East Timor

TIMORRES.DOC

ESX307 09/15/99

Text: House Resolution 292 on East Timor
(Urges Administration to consider additional sanctions) (1350)

The House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific passed a resolution September 15, condemning the violent efforts of East Timor militias and elements of the Indonesian military to overturn the results of the August 30 East Timorese vote for independence.

The resolution notes "the failure of the Government of Indonesia, despite repeated assurances to the contrary, to guarantee the security of the people of East Timor and further notes that it is the responsibility of the Government of Indonesia to restrain elements of the Indonesian military and paramilitary forces and restore order in East Timor."

It calls upon the Government of Indonesia to recognize its responsibilities as a member of the United Nations and a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to cooperate with appropriate United Nations authorities in the restoration of order in East Timor.

It also calls upon the Government of Indonesia to hold accountable those responsible for the violence and human rights abuses and atrocities in East Timor.

The resolution urges the Clinton Administration to consider additional measures to end the current civil unrest and violence in East Timor, "including the suspension of bilateral and international financial assistance (except for humanitarian assistance and assistance designed to promote the development of democratic institutions) to the Government of Indonesia until such time as it has demonstrated cooperation with respect to the deployment of a multinational force in East Timor and such force is fully deployed, UNAMET is fully operational in East Timor, refugees and displaced persons are able to return to East Timor safely, and order and respect for human rights are restored in East Timor."

Following is the text of the resolution:

(begin text)

H. RES. 292

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BEREUTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the referendum in East Timor, calling on the Government of Indonesia to assist in the termination of the current civil unrest and violence in East Timor, and supporting a United Nations Security Council-endorsed

multinational force for East Timor.

Whereas on May 5, 1999, the Governments of Portugal and Indonesia and the United Nations concluded an historic agreement intended to resolve the status of East Timor through a popular consultation based upon a universal, direct, and secret ballot;

Whereas the agreement gave the people of East Timor an opportunity to accept a proposed special autonomy for East Timor within the unitary Republic of Indonesia or reject the special autonomy and opt for independence;

Whereas on August 30, 1999, 98.5 percent of registered voters participated in a vote on the future of East Timor; and by a vote of 344,580 to 94,388 chose the course of independence;

Whereas after the voting was concluded, violence intensified significantly in East Timor;

Whereas the declaration by the Government of Indonesia of martial law in East Timor has failed to quell the violence;

Whereas it has been reported that hundreds of people have been killed and injured since the violence began in East Timor;

Whereas it has been reported that as many as 200,000 of East Timor's 780,000 residents have been forced to flee East Timor;

Whereas it has been reported that East Timor militias are controlling the refugee camps in West Timor, intimidating the refugees and denying access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, relief agencies, and other humanitarian nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas it has been reported that a systematic campaign of political assassinations that has targeted religious, student, and political leaders, aid workers, and others has taken place;

Whereas the compound of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) was besieged and fired upon, access to food, water, and electricity was intentionally cut off, and UNAMET personnel have been killed, forcing the closure of UNAMET in East Timor;

Whereas Catholic leaders and lay people have been targeted to be killed and churches burned in East Timor;

Whereas the international community has called upon the Government of Indonesia to either take immediate and concrete steps to end the violence in East Timor or allow a United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force to enter East Timor and restore order;

Whereas on September 9, 1999, the United States suspended all military relations with Indonesia as a result of the failure to quell the violence in East Timor; and

Whereas on September 12, 1999, Indonesian President B.J. Habibie announced that Indonesia would allow a United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force into East Timor: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives --

(1) congratulates the people of East Timor on their exemplary participation in the August 30, 1999, popular consultation;

(2) commends the professionalism, determination, and courage of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) personnel in support of the

August 30, 1999, vote on the future of East Timor;

(3) recognizes the overwhelming expression of the people of East Timor in favor of independence from Indonesia;

(4) condemns the violent efforts of East Timor militias and elements of the Indonesian military to overturn the results of the August 30, 1999, vote;

(5) notes with grave alarm the failure of the Government of Indonesia, despite repeated assurances to the contrary, to guarantee the security of the people of East Timor and further notes that it is the responsibility of the Government of Indonesia to restrain elements of the Indonesian military and paramilitary forces and restore order in East Timor;

(6) calls upon the Government of Indonesia to recognize its responsibilities as a member of the United Nations and a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to cooperate with appropriate United Nations authorities in the restoration of order in East Timor;

(7) urges the Government of Indonesia to allow unrestricted access to refugees and displaced persons in West Timor and to guarantee their safety;

(8) calls upon the Government of Indonesia to hold accountable those responsible for the violence and human rights abuses and atrocities in East Timor;

(9) notes with approval the decision of the United States to suspend military relations with, and the sale of any military weapons or equipment to. the Government of Indonesia until order is effectively restored;

(10) expresses approval of Indonesia's belated decision to allow a United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force into East Timor and strongly urges Indonesia to accept the rapid deployment of this force and to cooperate fully without preconditions on the composition and deployment of this force;

(11) expresses support for a rapid and effective deployment throughout East Timor of the United Nations Security Council-endorsed multinational force;

(12) urges that the United States consider additional measures to end the current civil unrest and violence in East Timor, including the suspension of bilateral and international financial assistance (except for humanitarian assistance and assistance designed to promote the development of democratic institutions) to the Government of Indonesia until such time as it has demonstrated cooperation with respect to the deployment of a multinational force in East Timor and such force is fully deployed, UNAMET is fully operational in East Timor, refugees and displaced persons are able to return to East Timor safely, and order and respect for human rights are restored in East Timor;

(13) expresses approval of United States logistical and other technical support for deployment of a multinational force for East Timor;

(14) commends Australia for its readiness to lead the multinational force for East Timor and welcomes the participation of other nations in this force;

(15) urges the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly to expeditiously ratify the vote of August 30, 1999, in East Timor and to otherwise speed the transition to full independence for East Timor; and

(16) recognizes that an effective United States foreign policy for this region requires both an effective near-term response to the ongoing

violence in, and progress toward independence for, East Timor and a long-term strategy for supporting stability, security, and democracy in Indonesia and East Timor.

(end text)